

EXPULSION OF THE GREEKS FROM EGYPT.

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MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

*Correspondence on the subject of the expulsion of the Greeks from Egypt.*

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DECEMBER 15, 1854.—Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

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*To the House of Representatives:*

I transmit, herewith, a report from the Secretary of State, with accompanying documents, in compliance with the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 27th of July last.

FRANKLIN PIERCE.

WASHINGTON, *December 11, 1854.*

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
*Washington, December 11, 1854.*

The Secretary of State, to whom was referred the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 27th of July last, requesting the President "to communicate to this House, if not incompatible with the public interests, the correspondence of our Consul General to Egypt on the subject of the expulsion of the Greeks from Egypt," has the honor to lay before the President a copy of the documents specified in the accompanying list.

Respectfully submitted:

W. L. MARCY.

To the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

*List of documents accompanying the report of the Secretary of State to the President, of the 11th of December, 1854.*

No. 1.—Mr. De Leon to Mr. Marcy, No. 9, (extracts and accompaniment,) April 18, 1854.

No. 2.—Same to same, No. 10, (extract and accompaniments,) May 4, 1854.

No. 3.—Same to same, No. 11, (extracts and accompaniments,) June 4, 1854.

No. 4.—Same to same, No. 12, (extract,) July 6, 1854.

*Mr. De Leon to Mr. Marcy.*

[ Extracts. ]

[No. 9.]      \* CONSULATE GENERAL U. S. A. IN EGYPT,  
*Alexandria, April 18, 1854.*

SIR: \* \* \* \*

On the 15th instant the Greek subjects received a similar notice; fifteen days only being allowed them to arrange their affairs. As the Greeks are very numerous here, and have for many years had the chief control of trade, this order has occasioned great consternation and distress. Many of them are men of family; have large possessions here; have been born and bred here, and have no other home.

Numerous applications for protection have been made to me by these men, both at Cairo and here, and to all I made the same reply, that for individuals I could do nothing; but when a requisition in proper form, and from a proper source, was made, I should consider it. On the 15th instant I received a call from the acting consul general of Greece, who implored my interposition on behalf of his countrymen, and several respectable old men who accompanied him declared, with tears in their eyes, that American intervention alone could save them and their families from utter ruin and exile. My reply to this appeal was, that if they would present me a formal petition, endorsed by their consul general, I would do that which alone was within my power intercede with the viceroy to allow them to remain under my protection, the continuance of such privilege being dependent on their good behavior. I stated to them that I could not claim this as a right but could only intervene, "officially," as a mutual friend to both parties. But I attached two conditions to my action: In the first place, I would not intervene in behalf of any persons who had compromised themselves, by making contributions in money, or otherwise, to the insurgents; and, secondly, that the number of persons must be limited, and only those of good character included. The reason of the first condition is obvious also of the second; but in making such selection I am chiefly guided by the representations of their own officials. Immediately on the receipt of this formal petition, which is now in course of preparation, I shall address a respectful request to the viceroy

(officially) on the subject, and endeavor to prove to him that he will consult his own best interests, as well as humanity, by allowing these picked men to remain in the country under the conditions prescribed.

It is my intention also to write to Mr. Spence, at Constantinople, to inform him of the steps I have taken, and to ask whether, in his judgment, an appeal to the Sultan would not be advisable. This matter having suddenly arisen, and not admitting of any delay, I have been compelled to act solely upon my own judgment, and hope that the course I have taken will meet your approval and that of the President. I must confess that my sympathies have been strongly excited, but not sufficiently so, I trust, to warp my judgment.

Rest assured, sir, that I will not, and have not, intervened on behalf of the criminal or the unworthy, but only for the persecuted and proscribed.

Enclosed you will find a copy of the placards posted over this city in the Italian, Arabic, and Turkish languages, (marked A.)

The total number of Greek subjects here is probably upwards of 1,000. Those for whom my protection has been invoked will number, probably, 150, being old residents and merchants, men of family and respectability. The floating population can take care of itself; much of it will be a good riddance.

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A.

*Placard in Italian, Arabic, and Turkish.*

The political and commercial relations between the Sublime Porte and Greece having been interrupted, all the Greek subjects are notified to leave Egypt in fifteen days from this date.

April 15, 1854.

[government seal.]

This is for their information.

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*Mr. De Leon to Mr. Marcy.*

[Extract.]

[No. 10.]

CONSULATE GENERAL U. S. A. IN EGYPT,  
*Alexandria, May 4, 1854.*

SIR: My despatch of April 18th informed you of the steps I had taken up to that time in relation to the expulsion of all the Greeks from Egypt. My subsequent proceedings are fully set forth in despatches addressed to Mr. Spence, our minister at Constantinople, and forwarded to him by the Austrian steamer of the 30th ult. Those despatches (marked AA and BB) are herewith enclosed, together with the accompanying documents, all of which are respectfully submitted, viz :

Despatches to Hon. Carroll Spence—marked AA and BB.

Placard posted up at Alexandria—marked A.

Despatches to Mahmoud Bey—Nos. 1 and 2.

Circular to consuls general of England, France, Austria, and Prussia—No. 4.

Application of Greek consul general and petition of Greeks—B.

Reply of the viceroy to my application—No. 5.

In addition to these documents, I append a note addressed to me, on behalf of the Greeks, by a deputation, which will show their sense of the services rendered—marked C. And I may venture to assure you, sir, that the American name in Egypt has received no detriment from the course which I deemed it my duty to take in these affairs. It remains only for me to add, that the order has not been executed with unnecessary rigor here, although no formal prolongation of the term has been given by the governor. While some of the Greeks, who have obtained foreign protection, have been allowed to remain, the greater portion, however, were ordered to leave, and will be obliged to go.

The entire Greek population in Egypt is estimated at about three thousand, (3,000.) Of these, a tenth part have obtained protection, and will stay. For reasons stated in my despatch to Mr. Spence, I have taken about twenty-five heads of families, here and at Cairo, and the local authorities have countersigned the papers thus given, without demur. The French, Belgian, Austrian, Prussian, and Swedish consuls general have done the same thing. The English have strictly practised "non-intervention."

On the day the order was to be put in execution, the 30th, collisions took place between the soldiery and Europeans in the streets. In one case a very serious tumult was threatened near the Swedish consulate; but through the decision of the Swedish consul general, Mr. D'Anastasy, (a venerable man of eighty-two years,) supported by his intrepid and energetic vice-consul, Mr. Petersin, the riot was quelled, and the brutal soldiers brought to punishment. Several other incidents prove that the Arab soldiery regard all Europeans, indiscriminately, as enemies; but the local authorities are doing their duty manfully to repress all acts of insolence or violence.

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[No. 1.]

CONSULATE GENERAL U. S. A. IN EGYPT,

*Alexandria, April 29, 1854.*

SIR: I have the honor of forwarding to you by this mail copies of a correspondence which has recently passed between the viceroy of Egypt and myself concerning the execution of orders from the Sublime Porte, relating to the expulsion of all Greek subjects resident in Egypt. This correspondence explains itself; and it will be necessary for me only to add a few words of explanatory narrative to make my entire action and position in the premises clear to you.

The whole affair is submitted to you, because I desire your intervention at the Sublime Porte in furtherance of the views advanced and

the position taken in this correspondence, should your judgment concur with mine, and your sense of duty allow you to press this matter to a favorable conclusion, which (I doubt not) prompt and decided intervention on your part can effect. In diplomatic language, I presume my interposition is to be considered as "officious," (though not so designated by me;) but with us and our government things are more important than names, and I therefore request that you will consider my action in that light which will give you the right formally to take cognizance of and press it upon the consideration of the Porte, which lays much stress upon diplomatic formulas.

The history of my intervention in the matter has been briefly this: While at Cairo, and on the eve of departure from this place, the order of expulsion was issued, and notice given to the acting consul general of Greece to that effect, at the same time entirely depriving him of all his functions towards his own subjects. Enclosed (marked A) you will find a copy of the public placard posted up in Alexandria on the succeeding day, Sunday, April 16.

The blow was so unexpected that the Greek residents in Egypt seemed entirely stunned by it; and were incredulous as to its execution. Private overtures were immediately made to me by these most influential merchants to take them under American protection on any terms. Their personal appeals were most urgent. My reply to all such overtures was, that I would not intervene *privately* for any one, and that I thought the representatives of nations directly interested in this quarrel were the proper persons to whom application should first be made. Their answer was, that application had been made in such quarters, but without avail, owing to reasons of policy. Finding they could get no protection elsewhere, I promptly determined to interpose, and promised that, if they could obtain a formal application from their consul general to me requesting my interposition on behalf of those who had not compromised themselves and were worthy of protection, I would make a direct appeal to the viceroy in their behalf. This was accordingly done; and on the 20th instant I received the written requisition of the Greek consul general, accompanied by the petition of certain Greeks resident here, recommended by him, (ninety-two heads of families,) and two days after a similar petition from Cairo reached me signed by thirty-two heads of families in that city. Immediately on the receipt of the papers first-named, on the 20th instant, I addressed to Mahmoud Bey, acting minister of foreign affairs at Cairo, despatches enclosed, marked 1 and 2, together with the accompanying documents, to which reference is therein made. On the same day, the Greek consul general made complaint of the denial by the authorities of his jurisdiction, as well as of outrages perpetrated by the police on the persons of Greek subjects. I recommended him to protest, which he did, and sent a message to the governor of Alexandria insisting on the justice of the protest, and warning him against the danger of permitting his subordinates to abuse their authority. On the 23d instant, when I made a friendly visit to him, and on the 25th, when he returned it, I impressed upon him the necessity of respecting the rights of the consul general, and of restraining his subordinates from acts of wanton insult by stringent orders. To all my representations he gave respectful



attention, and assured me that his own views and wishes concurred with mine, and that every precaution should be taken. Since that time no complaints of the same character have reached my ears; and I must do the governor the justice to say that he has acted with good sense, discretion, and energy, in his trying position.

On the day succeeding the sending of my first despatches, (the 20th,) I sent duplicate copies of those despatches, together with a circular, (marked No. 4,) to the consuls general of England, France, Austria, and Prussia, to which circular I have as yet received no formal answer, although my vice consul at Cairo informs me that the Austrian and Prussian consuls general had promised their intervention verbally, and intended requesting the co-operation of those of England and France, who regard themselves as debarred by the position of their governments not to mention the circular of Sir Stratford Redcliffe. My reasons for restricting the circular to the representatives of those four powers must be obvious to you; but in the interval I made numerous fruitless efforts to assemble the whole consular corps to consult on these matters. Being much the youngest of them, I could not summon them formally, and my elders would not.

On the morning of the 27th, not having received an answer from the government, I requested the governor to telegraph to Cairo for an answer, "yes or no," to my requisition. Before such a message could be sent (within two hours) I received the reply you will find enclosed, marked No. 5. \* \* \* \* \*

In some few cases, finding persons who represented American interests here, (commercial and otherwise,) I have given notice of my intention to protect them; but with these exceptions I consider myself excluded from further interposition, except in extreme cases, by the reply of the viceroy and the failure of my colleagues here to sustain me in any effective measures.

The only thing left for me, therefore, is to perform my promise, and carry up the appeal to the Sublime Porte for the restoration of these men to *their home*, which Egypt really is; and it would seem that the allied powers, as civilized and magnanimous nations, will not rest satisfied under the imputation of having instigated these measures, nor refuse to intercede with the Porte to grant to the subjects of a powerless nation, innocent of all complicity, that boon which they have accepted for their own subjects as a courtesy from Russia, their powerful and open enemy.

At all events, sir, I deem it my duty to lay these facts before you, and ask your co-operation, most respectfully, in what I regard as a work of humanity, and fully consonant not only to the instructions of our representatives abroad, but also to the spirit of our institutions and the genius of our people. Our President has eloquently given utterance to the public voice in his indignant denunciation of the "plea of State necessity," and this case offers a full commentary on his words. With sentiments of the highest esteem, accept the assurances of my high consideration.

EDWIN DE LEON.

Hon. CARROLL SPENCE,  
*United States Minister, Constantinople.*

[No. 2.]

CONSULATE GENERAL U. S. A. IN EGYPT,  
*Alexandria, April 29, 1854, (6 o'clock p. m.)*

SIR: Subsequent to the writing of my despatch of this morning, a meeting of all the consular agents here has been held at the Greek consulate, at the call of their consul general. The result has been the presentation of a plea to the governor of Alexandria for an extension of time for those of the Greeks who have unfinished business. All the consuls having countersigned this application, it is to be sent in forthwith. As the term expires in a few hours, this is the finale.

The steamer will leave before the governor's reply can be received.

Respectfully,

EDWIN DE LEON

Hon. CARROLL SPENCE,

*United States Minister at Constantinople.*

[No. 1.]

CONSULATE GENERAL U. S. A. IN EGYPT,  
*Alexandria, April 20, 1854.*

EXCELLENCE: Enclosed you will find a despatch, which, together with the accompanying petition, you will oblige me by immediately presenting to his Highness the viceroy, as it requires a prompt answer.

Your own clear and enlightened spirit must prompt you to give all the weight of your influence to this appeal to the magnanimity, the justice, and the mercy of his Highness, even were my own request insufficient to secure so slight a boon.

Accept, Mr. Minister, the assurances of my high consideration.

EDWIN DE LEON.

His Excellency MAHMOUD BEY,

*Vekil to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.*

[CIRCULAR ENCLOSING COPIES OF DESPATCHES ADDRESSED TO MAHMOUD BEY.]

[No. 4.]

CONSULATE GENERAL U. S. A. IN EGYPT,  
*Alexandria, April 21, 1854.*

MY DEAR COLLEAGUES: Enclosed you will find some papers which I have addressed to the viceroy, and despatched by last evening's mail to Cairo.

Your action, to be available, must be immediate; and if you would conjointly urge the adoption of my request, it would greatly aid the cause. The only apology I can make for thus troubling you with this matter is, that, in my judgment, it makes an appeal to our common humanity, and the extreme urgency of the case admits of no preliminary conference between us.

Hoping that you may concur with me in this view, I remain your friend and colleague,

EDWIN DE LEON.

The Hon. the CONSULS GENERAL  
of England, France, Austria, and Prussia.

[Translation.]

ALEXANDRIA, April 19, 1854.

MONS. L'AGENT AND CONSUL GENERAL: In case the Greeks should be obliged to leave Egypt, after what has just been intimated by the Ottoman governments, and seeing that, among those who are established there, there are many whose commercial affairs, family interests, &c., would prevent their quitting the soil of Egypt without incurring fatal ruin, I address myself to you, sir, to ask that you will have the kindness to grant your powerful protection to those Greeks who may not be able to depart instantly.

The painful situation in which we are, and my entreaties preferred to a philanthropic colleague who represents a nation at all times distinguished for the general protection it accords and has always accorded to such Europeans as have resorted to it, of which we have some striking proofs, induce me to believe that you will accede to my request, by giving your protection to my countrymen.

In this hope I have the honor to present you, sir, my respects.

M. TORRIZZO.

Mr. EDWIN DE LEON,  
*Agent and Consul General U. S. A. in Egypt, &c., Alexandria.*

C.

ALEXANDRIA, April 28, 1854.

We, the undersigned, committee of the Greeks in Egypt, beg to offer our warmest thanks and gratitude for your noble and philanthropic sentiments towards our nation, and for the endeavors you have made and are making for our protection from barbarous oppression.

As our time is now very limited, and we are at the point of parting, in repeating our thanks, we also hope that success will attend your endeavors, as the demand is made by that great nation whose just requests should be listened to and granted.

With the greatest esteem, your obedient servants,

[Signed by a committee of five.]

EDWIN DE LEON, Esq.,  
*Consul General of the U. S. A.*



## C.

Le relazioni politiche e commerciale frà la S. Porta e la Grecia essendo enterrotte, sono invitati tutti i sud<sup>ti</sup> Elleni d'abbandonare l'Egitto entre 15 giorni, decorribili dal 15 (mentre preveniva il giorno 16) dopo pranzo.

[Translation.]

The political and commercial relations between the Sublime Porte and Greece being interrupted, all the Greek subjects are invited to leave Egypt within 15 days, to count from the 15th, (while informed on the 16th) in the afternoon.

[Translation.]

ALEXANDRIA, *April 17, 1854.*

**M. LE CONSUL GENERAL:** The undersigned, Greek subjects domiciled in this city—some of them for nearly twenty years, others for the last ten years, and a few for the last five years, and the majority of us with our families—were quietly engaged in our commercial and other industrial pursuits, when, all of a sudden, we received the terrible order to quit Egypt within the period of fifteen days, in consequence of the interruption of diplomatic relations between Turkey and Greece.

We leave you, Mr. Consul General, to appreciate the incalculable losses and damages which we will have to suffer, although we have not taken the least part in the grievous events which distract the world, and the inevitable losses which will, at the same time, be entailed upon those subjects of his Highness the viceroy who have business relations with us, without mentioning the falling off in the government revenues which will be the consequence of a want of commercial enterprises.

Consequently we have recourse to the philanthropy of the great republic of the United States of America, by entreating you, Mr. Consul General, to be our mediator with his Highness the viceroy, and to take us under your protection.

We trust that his Highness the viceroy, who, having caused himself to be distinguished as the zealous protector of trade, has probably only adopted this measure in order to conform with political necessities, will not hesitate to allow your request. His Highness has been long acquainted with our peaceful conduct, and is aware that our only occupation is that which is confined within the circle of our commercial interests.

Being fully convinced, Mr. Consul General, of the noble sentiments of humanity which govern you, we hope to obtain the powerful protection of the great republic, which we implore, and we solemnly promise to show ourselves worthy of the same, and that we never will give occasion for complaint.

With regard to our gratitude, both towards the generous and philanthropic American nation, as well as to yourself, Mr. Consul General, its

worthy representative, it will be engraved in imperishable characters upon our hearts; and that act will shine out everywhere, especially in our country, as a luminous star.

We have the honor to remain, with the most profound respect, Mr. Consul General,

Your very humble and obedient servants,

(Signed by 92 heads of families.)

Mr. EDWIN DE LEON,

*Agent and Consul General U. S. A. in Egypt.*

[No. 2.]

CONSULATE GENERAL U. S. A. IN EGYPT.

*Alexandria, April 20, 1854.*

EXCELLENCY: Enclosed you will find a petition addressed to me by certain Greek subjects resident in Egypt, who have requested my intercession to save them from the consequences of acts in which they had no part, and of which they are about being made the innocent victims. A higher compliment could not be paid to his Highness than this mark of confidence in his justice and magnanimity, and this preference for Egypt as a residence over the land of their nativity.

It is therefore with great pleasure, and with an assured confidence in his promptly acceding to a request at once so flattering to him and his government, and so well calculated to exalt his name throughout the whole western world, that I now present this proposal to him, and add my own strong request that it be granted, under the conditions specified. His Highness will observe that this appeal is not made on behalf of *all*, or even of a great number of Greek subjects, but only for those who from long residence have become identified with the country and regard Egypt as their home, and whose interests are linked with those of his people, many of whom must suffer great loss by their sudden expulsion. These Greek subjects state their own case, and all its hardships, so strongly in their petition, that it is not necessary for me to add a single word or argument to so conclusive a statement; and the enlightened spirit of his Highness must show him all the reasons which should prompt him to grant their prayer.

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No nation and no rulers can safely violate the great laws of humanity and justice in this era of the world, and retribution must speedily follow all acts of unnecessary or arbitrary cruelty. These sentiments must find an echo in the heart of his Highness, and he must recollect that this is a matter on which the whole civilized world will sit in judgment, should I appeal from him to them. Never was there presented to the ruler of any land a more noble opportunity of making his name illustrious with all nations than this, and the voices of more than thirty millions of my countrymen would unite with those of all European people in pronouncing Abbas Pacha well worthy of his high seat when he thus listens to the persuasions of justice and mercy, though raised in behalf of men whose nation had forfeited a right to his friendship.

As the representative here of that great republic, whose ear are

never closed to the cry of suffering humanity in any clime, I therefore solemnly appeal to his Highness to grant me the privilege of protecting the unfortunate men whose names are subscribed to the enclosed petition, as well as a few others at Cairo, whose names will be forwarded in the course of two days, on the conditions therein prescribed.

I make this request confidently, although the orders from the Porte may seem imperative for these two reasons: Firstly, the reasons of political necessity urgent at Constantinople and elsewhere, do not apply *here*, and I doubt not, through the intercession of our minister at the Sublime Porte, (with whom I am in correspondence,) this act would be gratifying to the Porte, as well as to its great European allies; and secondly, because in a recent and well known case here, his Highness insisted that Egypt was not to be ranked with the other Pachalics of Turkey, but that, under the capitulations, the viceroy of Egypt must exercise a sound discretion on all matters relating to the internal policy and well-being of the country, of which this is one. If, however, the viceroy doubts his own rights and powers in this matter, I request, most urgently, a suspension of the execution of this order of expulsion in the cases named, until I can receive a reply direct from the Sublime Porte, to which, in such case, and under all circumstances, I shall certainly make application.

With renewed assurances of my high consideration,

EDWIN DE LEON.

MAHMOUD BEY,

*Vekil to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cairo.*

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[Translation.]

[No. 121.]

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,

*Cairo, April 25, 1854.*

MONSIEUR LE CONSUL GENERAL: On the very day I received the letter which you did me the honor of addressing to me, under date of the 20th of this month, I submitted the same, together with the accompanying documents, to the viceroy.

I cannot disguise from you, Mr. Consul General, that the viceroy has been somewhat astonished on learning its contents; and as his Highness attaches great importance that no doubt, no uncertainty, should be felt with regard to his intentions, I have received orders to inform you immediately that, although well inclined in other respects to respect your wishes, he finds it impossible to accede to the request you have presented to him in behalf of a certain number of Greek subjects established in Egypt.

It is not that the viceroy is insensible to the painful situation in which present circumstances have placed some of the Greeks, nor is it because he is indifferent to the approval of nations among whom the voice of suffering humanity always finds an echo. His Highness, on the contrary, has nothing so much at heart than to deserve the sentiments of esteem and confidence of which your letter contains the flattering expression. The orders issued by him, the instructions forwarded

to the local authorities, more than sufficiently evince the solicitude with which his Highness has sought to mitigate as much as possible the rigor of the measure which weighs upon Greek subjects; a measure, besides, which has been rendered necessary by events. But there is a point concerning which the viceroy cannot enter into any discussion: it is the strict execution of the orders of the Sublime Porte. In the opinion of his Highness, all considerations must give way before the duties which are imposed upon him in this respect, and he does not believe that he has a right either to evade or to discuss the purport of the instructions he has received.

Upon this subject, Mr. Consul General, the viceroy deems it his duty to rectify an opinion advanced by you, concerning the freedom of action which the viceroy thought himself justified in claiming at another period. The fact is that this freedom of action only concerns the internal administration, the care of which is confided to the local government, within certain specified limits, by the acts of the sovereign power. With regard to relations with foreign countries, and, consequently, the conclusion and supreme interpretation of treaties, the nature of the relations to be maintained abroad—in one word, all measures relating to foreign policy, the Sublime Porte has preserved within the prerogatives of the Imperial government the exclusive right to provide for the same. The Sublime Porte asserts the maintenance of this right by means of executive provisions throughout the whole extent of the Ottoman possessions. Such is the decision concerning the Greek subjects. The viceroy, then, you will certainly acknowledge, can only watch to see said decision fully carried out in Egypt.

There is, moreover, one consideration, Mr. Consul General, which cannot escape you. Great powers are now making common cause with Turkey. Identical interests and sentiments have caused to spring up between them and the Sublime Porte a perfect confidence and an active co-operation towards the attainment of one and the same object. It is therefore probable that the measures now adopted by the Imperial government have been matured and determined upon by agreement with its allies. Now among these powers, we find in the foremost rank two of the three States under the protection of which has been erected the kingdom of Greece. If the right to protect the Greek subjects, under present circumstances, could have been claimed, the demand would certainly have been made by the representatives of those States. Yet, Mr. Consul General, this has not been done, and I can assure you that the agents of France and England have not once expressed a desire to shield with their protection the Greeks established in the Ottoman empire. The urgency of the measure adopted by the Sublime Porte is thus acknowledged and approved by the powers who might have thought themselves authorized to mitigate the rigor of the same. You can, besides, convince yourself that this measure has received no modification, and that its proviso is up to this moment maintained in all its parts; for the Journal of Constantinople of the 9th contains a notice of the commission charged to deliver passports to Greek subjects, the object of which is to remind them of the period originally fixed for their departure. It results from what has been stated above, that the viceroy cannot of his own accord alter the condition of

the Greeks, and still less authorize the admission of any number whatever among them to the protection of a foreign power, without violating the formal instructions of the Sublime Porte; that his Highness considers it an imperative duty to comply in every respect with the instructions which have been forwarded to him; that these instructions seem to be the result of an agreement between the Imperial government and its allies; and that, in short, if a change could be introduced in the provisions which he has been charged to carry out, it is only, as you seem perfectly to have understood it, at Constantinople that this change can be solicited and obtained. You will also understand, Mr. Consul General, that until new orders are issued, any step aiming to induce the viceroy to deviate from a line of conduct in conformity with the instructions of the Sublime Porte, could not consequently be favorably received by his Highness.

I avail myself of this occasion, Mr. Consul General, to offer you the renewed assurances of my high consideration.

The Vekil of the department of foreign affairs,

MAHMOUD BEY.

Mr. EDWIN DE LEON, *Consul General of the United States.*

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*Mr. De Leon to Mr. Marcy.*

[Extracts.]

CONSULATE GENERAL U. S. A. IN EGYPT,

ALEXANDRIA, June 4, 1854.

[No. 11.]

SIR: \* \* \* \* \*

It is a source of great gratification to me, that I am enabled to inform you that my mediation for the Greeks here has terminated most happily; and without the slightest rupture of amicable relations, has resulted in a tacit permission for all well-disposed persons of that nation to remain in Egypt, under the protection of the consuls of other nations. \* \*

Three days since I received from Mr. Spence, our minister at Constantinople, an answer to my despatch to him, dated April 29, (enclosed and marked A,) which, together with my reply, (marked B,) accompanies this despatch. My reasons for adopting the course indicated in that despatch will be obvious to you without further explanation. I submit these despatches without comment.

Regarding this affair as now finished, and not likely to be re-opened, except under unforeseen circumstances, I respectfully submit the consideration of my entire conduct throughout to the judgment of the President and yourself. On a calm and deliberate retrospect of my whole action in the premises, I can find no act which I would not repeat under similar circumstances; and it is but justice to my vice-consul here, Mr. Wm. Moore, to state, that throughout all the embarrassments and difficulties of these negotiations, I have met with cordial co-operation, energy, and valuable aid from him—his sympathies and judgment concurring entirely with my own.

As to the effect which these transactions have had in the Levant, I



can assure you, sir, that it has not diminished the respect already entertained for the American name, as extracts from papers published in Greek, French, and Italian, if submitted to you, would abundantly prove. I state this only to show the impression this intervention has produced outside of Egypt. With many apologies for having been compelled, of late, to trouble you with such voluminous despatches, I now commit this matter to your hands.

Respectfully

EDWIN DE LEON.

A.

PERA, *May 10, 1854.*

SIR: Your communication of the 29th of April, with copy of the correspondence between yourself and the viceroy of Egypt, relative to the execution of the orders of the Sublime Porte for the expulsion of the Greeks from Egypt, was received by me on the 7th instant. Your interference on behalf of the subjects of the King of Greece will, beyond doubt, not only meet with the approbation of the citizens of the United States, but will elicit the approval of men of all nations who have a respect for the principles of humanity, which should ever influence and control the conduct of nations towards each other.

While warmly approving of your views upon the subject, I regret that there is not the least chance of inducing the Sultan to comply with your wishes.

When informed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs that the Sublime Porte had decided upon the expulsion of the subjects of the King of Greece residing in the Ottoman Empire, I addressed a note to his excellency requesting a prolongation of the time mentioned in the decree for their expulsion. My reasons for making this request were fully stated in my communication, (a copy of which, marked A, I herewith transmit to you,) yet I regret to state that the Minister of Foreign Affairs not only refused the request, but informed Mr. Brown, the dragoman of the legation, that he was utterly surprised that I should have made any such application.

Entertaining the same views as yourself upon the policy of the expulsion of the subjects of the King of Greece from the Ottoman Empire—with feelings already enlisted in their behalf—stimulated by the laudable zeal you have evinced for them in your communication to the viceroy of Egypt, I should certainly not hesitate to intercede a second time in their behalf, did I not feel convinced, from the course pursued by the Porte towards the French ambassador and myself in reference to this matter, that, superadded to a refusal of my request, an interruption of the friendly relations between myself and the Porte would ensue from a further agitation of the subject. Should you, however, after giving due consideration to my interference in the matter, desire

me to speak to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in reference to your communication, it will give me pleasure to call his attention to the subject, and to press your views, so far as I can do so, without disturbing the friendly relations existing between the United States legation and the Porte.

Yours very respectfully,

CARROLL SPENCE.

HON. EDWIN DE LEON,

*Consul General of the U. S. A. in Egypt.*

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B.

CONSULATE GENERAL U. S. A. IN EGYPT,

*Alexandria, June 1, 1854.*

SIR: Your despatch of May 10, in response to mine of April 29, has just reached me. Under the circumstances I certainly do not think it advisable that you should now press my application at the Sublime Porte, although exigencies may arise to render it necessary at some future time. For the present, I am happy to inform you I have substantially obtained what I demanded, through the tacit acquiescence of the authorities here, in arrangements which have prevented the threatened forcible exodus of the entire Greek population.

This has not been accomplished without a severe struggle, and the assumption of a grave responsibility on my part; and any step, therefore, either here or at Constantinople, which would tend to reopen the question, would be in the last degree injudicious and unwise. I am entirely satisfied to let matters here remain as they are. My relations with this government, so far from being disturbed by this affair, have been placed on a better footing, and I sincerely regret that your benevolent efforts and earnest appeal met with so little success.

With my warm acknowledgments for the kind and courteous language in which you have been pleased to refer to my natural efforts here, and highly gratified to find that we have unconsciously been acting in unison in behalf of the unfortunate and defenceless,

I remain, very truly, yours,

EDWIN DE LEON.

HON. CARROLL SPENCE,

*Minister Resident at Constantinople.*

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*Mr. De Leon to Mr. Marcy.*

[Extract.]

[No. 12.]

CONSULATE GENERAL U. S. A. IN EGYPT,

*Cairo, July 6, 1854.*

SIR:

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The Greek question here seems settled; no further steps against that

people having been taken by the Egyptian government. A deputation from the Greeks waited on me, at Alexandria, the day previous to my departure for this place, and invited me to a celebration of the 4th of July, which they designed having in honor of our anniversary. Believing that such a demonstration from that source at this time might subject them to annoyance, and perhaps danger, by irritating the authorities, and also be misconstrued by my consular brethren, I prevailed upon them to abandon the idea, though not without difficulty. It was a severe sacrifice of inclination to policy on both sides, and the fact is stated to show the feeling entertained by this people towards us and our country.

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